

Amendment Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
Serial No.: 10/628,482
SUGHRUE MION, PLLC Ref: Q76512

REMARKS

Claims 1-11 are all the claims pending in the application. Claims 1-6 have been examined in the subject application. The Examiner has rejected claims 2 and 4-6 under § 112 (second paragraph) as being indefinite. Additionally, the Examiner has rejected claims 1-6 under § 102(b) as being anticipated by Rehm (U.S. Patent No. 6,027,678) and Brodi, Jr., et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,838,027).

By way of this amendment, Applicants have cancelled claims 1-11 in favor of new claims 12-15. It is believed that the new claims comply with the specificity requirements of § 112 (second paragraph) and patentably distinguish over the Rehm and Brodi, Jr., et al. references.

In more detail, regarding the references cited in the Office Action, Rehm and Brodi, Jr., et al. do not disclose, either alone or in combination with each other, abutting a plate of thermoplastic or thermosetting material against a positioning surface of a positioning element, nor retaining an edge of the plate along a border-line between the compression moulding and the injection moulding regions during the closure of the half-moulds. In the Rehm reference, the plate of thermoplastic or thermosetting material is replaced by a melt strand 16 applied to the lower mould-half 7 (*See* Figure 4). The melt strand 16 does not abut against a positioning surface and is not retained during the closure of the half moulds. In the Brodi, Jr., et al. reference, a plastic melt as a strand or a sheet is extruded by a deposition unit 50. The plastic melt does not abut against a positioning surface. Also, in Brodi, Jr., et al., the projection 48 retains the plastic melt and the covering layer 26 only when the half-moulds are in the completely closed position. There is no teaching nor disclosure about providing a retaining

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element vertically movable with respect to the respective half-mould between an extracted and a retracted position.

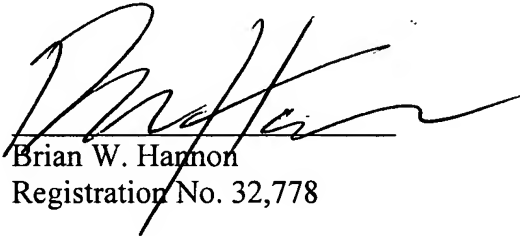
Positioning and retaining the plate as specified in claim 12 is particularly important when there is an irregular border between the compression moulding region and the injection-moulding region. In this case, the edge of the plate must be pre-shaped in order to match the border-line between the compression moulding and the injection moulding region. The pre-shaped edge of the plate must be positioned and retained so as to match exactly said border line. The prior art fails to teach or suggest the method recited in claim 12 and its dependent claims.

In view of the foregoing, it is submitted that all claims pending in the application are allowable. It is therefore requested that the application be passed to issue at the earliest convenience. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

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The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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